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"groups" in all lands, among all races, and at all stages of civilization have wanted war; they still want it and hope to block enactment by the international conference now sitting in Paris of any organic act for a world State that will put the judge above the soldier. Of course, their hirelings are on duty in Paris, and among them are Judas and Machiavelli.

NATIONS LEAGUED FOR HEALTH

MR. HENRY P. DAVISON, Chairman of the Committee of Red Cross Societies, gave a dinner to the representatives of the International Press in Paris February 21, where he outlined certain significant plans for the salvage of life and the reconstruction of the bodies of men. Viewing "Peace" as the peace of mind and the peace of body, as a normal life freed of unlawful or unreasonable interference, Mr. Davison called attention to the tragic situation of the world today, its lack of proper foods, of sufficient medical service, of scientific and general health practice. It properly seems to him that the International Red Cross is now in a position to take up these problems. On the day of the signing of the Armistice the American Red Cross Organization itself was four times the size of the American Expeditionary Forces. In other words: there were 8,000,000 men and women working for the Red Cross in America alone. To this service 47,000,000 American people voluntarily contributed funds. When one bears in mind that this is but one of five such organizations, the potential power of its experience, if co-ordinated, is very impressive.

It seems that a Conference of the organizations of the five Great Powers has been recently held at Cannes. Afterward they met in Geneva, with the result that there is now a Committee with an accordion name known as: "Committee of Red Cross Societies to formulate and to propose to the Red Cross Societies of the world an extended program of Red Cross activities in the interests of humanity." Headquarters have been established at Cannes, and a Paris office at 2 Place de Rivoli. It is proposed to take up first the subjects of hygiene and sanitation, tuberculosis, nursing, venereal diseases, malaria, and certain other infectious maladies. The plan covers curative and preventive treatment. It is not proposed that the organization shall carry out the programs in detail, but rather that it shall stimulate and encourage existing agencies to increase endeavor, or, in cases where there are no such agencies, it shall see that such agencies are developed. The plan is to utilize the experience of the Red Cross to the co-ordination of all efforts making for a more wholesome manhood. Through its organization it plans to keep the world in-

formed of the advances made by science within the field here indicated. The results which they hope to accomplish may be summarized as follows: To awaken peoples in every country to a sense of obligation, to spread the fruits of science for the prevention and the healing of disease, and to organize aid against the inevitable disasters.

This is certainly ambitious and worthy, we believe, of men of large ideas and great power. If the plans tentatively set forth elsewhere in these columns, avoid falling over the "vested interests" and arousing jealousies, if their "over-head" is kept down and their affairs conducted according to business principles, then this great ideal, so clearly set before us in Paris that Washington's birthday eve, should, as Mr. Davison said: "develop into the greatest humanitarian force yet set in motion in the interest of all races, all sects, all creeds, and all colors in the world." This enterprise, representing the Red Cross Societies of France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, and the United States, and supported by the Governments of these countries, may well prove to be a League of Nations indeed, a league buttressed upon that most enduring of all laws, the law epitomized in the long ago by a certain Samaritan on a road in a suburb of Jericho.

JUSTICE IN ARMY DISCIPLINE

THE Clemency Board, appointed, following the armistice, to review the cases of all soldiers remaining in confinement, announced, April 8th, that in consideration of only one-third of the cases under its jurisdiction it already had reduced the average sentence from seven years and four months to one year and nine months. A total of 9,339 years has been struck from the aggregate sentences. The natural query of the lay mind is, why such severity at first, and was it due to an archaic system of military justice under which the Army of the United States was and is operating, or was it due to the personnel of the courts-martial? Thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Ansell, a West Pointer, and other persons who came into the judge-advocate's department of the Army from outside the military machine, the War Department has been forced to give way by publicity and by the pressure of public opinion made righteously indignant by facts that have been disclosed. The American Bar Association, Congress, and the War Department itself are now enlisted in behalf of justice to the enlisted man, volunteer, or drafted. Secretary Baker, very wisely, just before he sailed for France, April 7th, retreated from his position of opposition to Lieutenant Colonel (former General) Ansell, and invited him to share in drafting proposed remedial leg-

isolation. A special commission also has been sent to Europe to study methods of judicial procedure in armies abroad. There cannot be too much publicity on this phase of military activity; and the American system must conform to the highest code of ethics it is possible to enforce. It must be a system humanistic and not legalistic or militaristic, and it must carry out ideals of democracy and not autocracy.

PUBLIC OPINION AND THE LEAGUE

THE *Literary Digest*, in its issue of April 5, published a symposium to which 1,377 editors of daily newspapers in all parts of the United States contributed. The journalist does not always either reflect public opinion as accurately or shape it as potently in his community as he thinks he does. Nevertheless he is a fair barometer of civic atmospheric conditions, and his opinion expressed in a poll of the nation's mind and will is not to be discounted unduly.

To the *Literary Digest's* question, "Do you favor the Proposed League of Nations?" 718 men answered "Yes," and only 181 "No." To those who answered "Yes" without any qualifications there must be added 478 editors, who replied affirmatively, but with conditions such as they deemed necessary to protect either the interests of the United States or nations that might otherwise be restricted by the binding clauses of the original draft put forth tentatively by the Peace Conference. In some cases the replies were strictly personal. In others the answer was admittedly based on evidence of popular opinion registered by action of legislatures, mass meetings of citizens and civic organizations. In most cases there was apparent intention of accurate statement of fact and elimination of partisan, class, or personal feeling. On the whole the result indicated the accuracy of President Wilson's contention in his address in New York City just before sailing the second time for France, that he had the country with him in support of the formation of the League.

So much for the editors of newspapers. What about readers of journals? In response to the question, carefully drafted by ex-President Taft. "Do you wish the United States to enter a League of Nations to preserve peace?" readers of sixteen daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 2,000,000 buyers each day and representing urban communities of the Atlantic coast, the mid-West, the South, and the Pacific coast, responded by ballots during March and early April. The total vote for the League was 107,744 and 33,427 against. In Houston, Texas, 96 out of every hundred persons responding voted for the League; in Chicago 39 out of

every hundred were opposed. Washington, the national capital, cast 78 per cent of its votes favorable to the League, a city where personal hostility to the President and to anything he does, is alleged to be strong, and where the attack upon the League has been most open and virulent by national lawmakers. When to statistics of this sort are added the formal favoring votes of practically all of the religious, labor, agricultural, and women's organizations of the country and many if not most of the commercial bodies, including the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and its affiliated local bodies, as well as some of the State legislatures, it is difficult to see where the Senate's critics of the League are to get moral support for successful opposition to the hoped-for product of the Paris Conference. This is especially true in the light of the mounting evidence that visits to their constituents since Congress dissolved have taught some of the lawmakers that the rank and file of the people are in no mood for a legalistic policy by the Senate in meeting a supreme human need.

THE RIGHTS OF AFRICANS AND OF PEOPLES OF AFRICAN ORIGIN

Strangely enough, the papers seem to give little publicity to a recent gathering at the French Capital, in the interest of colored peoples. The Pan-African Congress, held February 19 and 20, at the Grand Hotel, Paris, relates materially to the future peace of the world. It consisted of representatives from the United States of America, the French West Indies, Haiti, France, Liberia, the Spanish, and Portuguese Colonies, San Domingo, England, Algeria, Egypt, the Belgian Congo, Abyssinia, and from Colonial Powers, such as France, Belgium, and the United States. Among the speakers at the Congress were Mr. Blaise Diagne, deputy from Sénégal to the French Chamber and Commissioner General in charge of French Colonial effectives; C. D. B. King, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia; Franklin-Bouillon, chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs in the French Chamber; Gratien Candace, French deputy from Guadeloupe; William English Walling and Charles Edward Russell, of the United States.

It is surprising that more interest has not been taken in this gathering, speaking as it did, for approximately 200,000,000 Negroes and Negroids.

The reasons for believing that this meeting was significant at this time of reorganization transcend the numbers represented. They relate to all the principles now seen to be vital. These millions are becoming self-conscious. What is more, they are bitter. One repre-